

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01 ACDA-10 MC-02 SAM-01

(ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 013728

R 050015Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
GENEVA FOR MEP
C DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 4, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES TOLD THE ISRAELIS THEY
WOULD HAVE TO DELAY PURCHASE OF THE LANCE MISSILES?

A. FOR ANY INFORMATION ON THAT KIND OF A SPECIFIC QUESTION,
I SUGGEST YOU ASK DEFENSE.#

Q. IS IT TRUE, AS REPORTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER PERES
WANTED TO COME HERE AND WAS TOLD NOT TO AND THAT THERE WAS
A FOLLOW-UP REQUEST THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WANTED TO
COME HERE FOR DISCUSSIONS AND WAS TOLD NOT TO?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY REQUEST OR SUGGESTION ABOUT
FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON COMING OVER. I KNOW THAT THERE WAS
CONSIDERATION FOR A VISIT BY THE ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTER --

MR. PERES. BUT, AGAIN, AS HE WAS COMING OVER PRIMARILY TO
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MEET WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER, I THINK ANY
DETAILS ON THAT PROPOSED VISIT OUGHT TO BE REFERRED TO THE
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. ##

Q. THE OTHER DAY I THINK JACK ANDERSON SAID THAT THE
UNITED STATES WOULD BE CONSULTING OTHER COUNTRIES RELATIVE
TO THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST THAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE ATTEND THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE. HAS THAT BEEN DONE, AND WHAT ARE THE

DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS HAVE SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON THE PARTICIPATION THAT YOU REFERRED TO -- TO THE ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION. AS YOU KNOW, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY. AND, AS WE REPORTED LAST NIGHT, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. END QUOTE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LATER ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH THIS ANSWER:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS HELD UP A LETTER OF OFFER TO ISRAEL FOR THE LANCE MISSILE AND NEW F-15 JET FIGHTERS AND THAT THE VISIT OF AN ISRAELI EVALUATION TEAM WAS POSTPONED?

WILL THE DECISION ON THE LANCE AND THE F-15S BE PART OF THE REASSESSMENT OF US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT?

A. WITH REGARD TO OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, JUST LET ME SAY THAT FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S VISIT LAST FALL THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. THESE SHIPMENTS, I BELIEVE, FOR THE MOST PART HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON ISRAEL'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.

I WOULD ADD THAT OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS ALWAYS UNDER STUDY. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THESE EFFORTS ARE BEING INTEGRATED INTO OUR OVERALL MIDDLE EAST REASSESSMENT -- THIS INCLUDES THE QUESTION OF NEW COMMITMENTS AS WELL AS COMPLETION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ON A FEW ITEMS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE PAST.

##THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LATER SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT MINISTER PERES' VISIT:

THE U.S. VISIT BY DEFENSE MINISTER PERES HAD BEEN UNDER

GENERAL DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME, BUT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT A DATE FOR SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE SET DURING THE PERIOD WHILE OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY REASSESSMENT IS UNDERWAY. INGERSOLL

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